



OPERATIONS MEMO

Update from the California Student Aid Commission

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



November 20, 2014

GOM 2014-34

TO: Financial Aid Administrators
High School Counselors

FROM: Catalina G. Mistler 
Chief, Program Administration & Services Division

SUBJECT: **Student Expense Budgets / Income and Asset Ceilings**

This Operations Memo from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) announces the release of the 2015-16 [Student Expense Budgets](#) and [Income and Asset Ceilings](#).

- The statewide sample Student Expense Budgets are adjusted annually for inflation or deflation using the California Consumer Price Indices. The 2015-16 budgets include standardized allowances for food, housing, books and supplies, transportation, and personal/miscellaneous expenses for a nine-month academic year.
- Actual campus budget information provided by the institution on WebGrants or on a College Cost Estimate form will be used when awarding Cal Grants.
- The 2015-16 Cal Grant Income and Asset Ceilings, which will be used for Cal Grant award selection, were calculated using the California Department of Finance's prescribed methodology. Please be aware that California Education Code section 69432.7(k) prescribes that ceilings used for students renewing a Cal Grant award be the higher of:
 1. the new ceilings for the year or
 2. the ceilings in place when the participant entered the program
- The income and asset ceilings for new applicants and renewal recipients will be the same for the 2015-16 academic year.

The Student Expense Budgets and Income and Asset Ceilings can also be accessed at www.csac.ca.gov on the "COLLEGES" tab menu, under the "Resources" section.

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